

CENTER FOR OCCUPATIONAL & ENVIRONMENTAL MEDICINE, P.C.

118 N. WASHINGTON AVE.
ROYAL OAK, MICHIGAN 48067
(248) 547-9100

Justices of the Michigan Supreme Court
Supreme Court Clerk
PO Box 30052
Lansing, MI 48909

Re: Proposed Rule # 2003-47

Dear Sir/Madam:

I treat more patients with asbestos-related disease in the State of Michigan than any other physician, and am the co-author of the world's largest study of asbestos-related respiratory disease in ironworkers.

I am the Past Chair of the American College of Chest Physicians Occupational and Environmental Disease Section, and am a member of the American Thoracic Society's Committee whose work to accurately define the diagnosis and treatment of asbestos-related diseases will be published in January.

The ABA medical criteria are wrong.

Although I personally agree with the need to reform asbestos litigation procedures, instituting a medically incorrect criteria for diagnosis is not the way to do it. If you do institute this, I will be forced to teach the next generation of physicians that in order to practice good medicine and avoid medical malpractice, they must ignore the medical advice of the American Bar Association and the Michigan Supreme Court.

Why don't you just wait until the ATS Medical Document is published?



Michael R. Harbut, MD, MPH, FCCP
Clinical Assistant Professor, Internal Medicine
Wayne State University

